



**The Tennessee Department of Labor
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NEWS RELEASE

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James Neeley
Commissioner

TENNESSEE REMAINS BELOW NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

NASHVILLE-Tennessee's unemployment rate for the month of March is 4.8 percent, the same as the February rate, Commissioner of Labor & Workforce Development James Neeley announced today. The state rate remains below the March national rate of 5.8 percent.

"Labor market conditions remained relatively weak in March," said Commissioner Neeley. "Although Tennessee remains well below the national unemployment rate of 5.8 percent, Tennessee's economy is still not performing as well as it should."

February-to-March figures show seasonal employment increases in leisure and hospitality jobs, up by 5,900. Professional and business services jobs increased by 4,000. Trade, transportation and utilities jobs also increased by 3,600 jobs. Decreases took place in clothing and clothing accessories stores (retail trade) with job losses totaling 300. Machinery/manufacturing jobs decreased by 200 jobs.

From March 2002 to March 2003, educational and health services jobs increased by 13,700. There were also increases in the professional and business services jobs, up by 12,300. Decreases took place in manufacturing, down by 12,900. Construction jobs decreased as well by 4,700; and trade, transportation and utilities jobs declined by 3,500.

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES SUMMARY - TENNESSEE

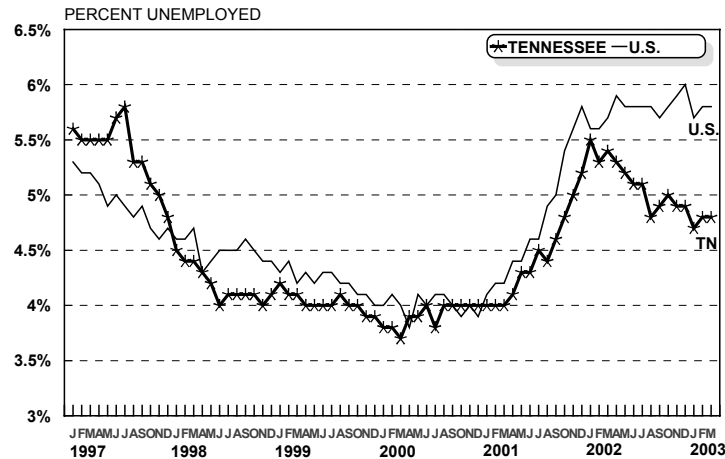
March 2003 (preliminary) - BM 2002

<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate		Rate Change
				Mar.	Feb.	
UNITED STATES	145,793,000	137,348,000	8,445,000	5.8 %	5.8 %	0.0 %
TENNESSEE	2,890,400	2,752,700	137,700	4.8	4.8	0.0

Not Seasonally Adjusted

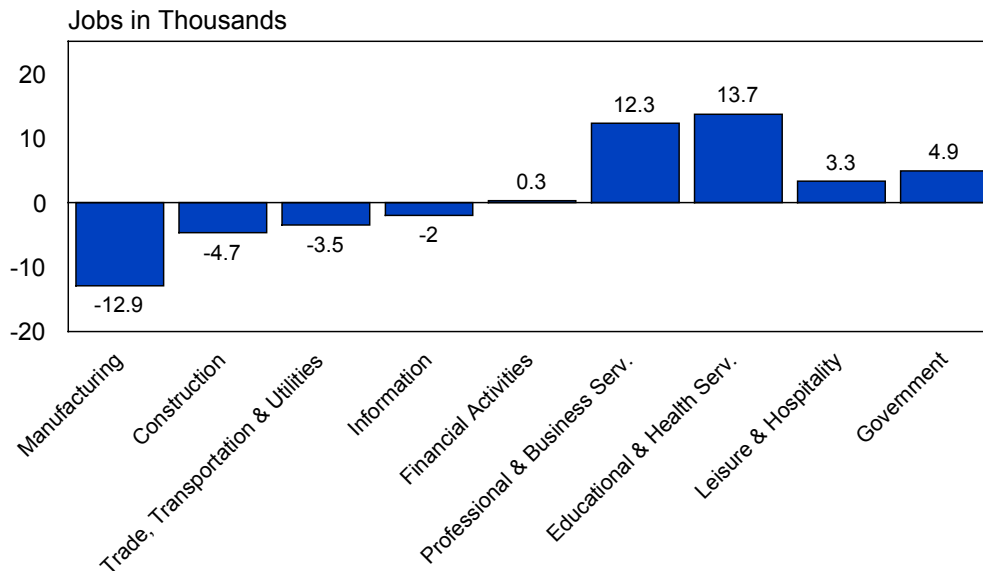
UNITED STATES	145,801,000	136,783,000	9,018,000	6.2 %	6.4 %	-0.2 %
TENNESSEE	2,875,900	2,734,100	141,800	4.9	5.1	-0.2

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - U.S. & TENNESSEE
JANUARY 1997 - PRESENT
(seasonally adjusted)



OVER THE YEAR JOB CHANGES

By Major Industry (March 2002-2003)



*** ATTENTION: County and MSA rates will be released on Friday, May 9, 2003.**

(03-027)

NOTE: Information will be available on the Internet; enter "http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/labor_figures".

NOTE: Tennessee's employment and unemployment statistics are based on two major surveys. The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a survey by place of residence providing estimates on the number of people in the labor force, total employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate. Beginning in January 1992, the CPS data are seasonally adjusted for all states as directed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The business survey collects data by place of work and creates information about jobs in various industries. The business survey data are non-seasonally adjusted at this time.